

SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, June 16, 2015, 6:00 p.m, Old Schoolhouse Common

Present: Selectboard members John Warshow, Chris Martin, and Andy Perchlik; Town Clerk Bobbi Brimblecombe; Road Foreman Dan Tetreault; Fence Viewers Wilmer Brandt and Rich Phillips; Recreation Committee Member Lincoln Centers; Building Superintendent Ernie Penley; Visitors Ed Berry, Norman and Judy Dix, Albert St. Cyr, Michael Baril, Jim Brimblecombe; Bob Silverstein, Jenny Warshow; Greg Western (Cross Vermont Trail); Will Walters (Hardwick Gazette)

At 6:00 p.m. the meeting was called to order by Chair Andrew Perchlik

Additions to Agenda: Creamery Street box culvert, dog complaint, tax sale

Creamery Street: Dan Tetreault told the Board he checked the box culvert on Creamery Street and it is in need of repair. The deck has cracks and holes, and water is getting into the concrete. He would like to have someone come and look at it, to see what should be done. He is going to get in touch with someone from VTrans to see what they think needs to be done.

Grader: Dan informed the Board that the grader is going to Nortrax for an oil leak that could potentially take a week to fix.

Old Schoolhouse Common: Lincoln Centers asked about the water fountain. He has a price of approximately \$400 for a standard water fountain, or \$1,300 for one that can fill water bottles. That is just for the fountain, but doesn't include installation. Ernie would like to also put one out on the playground. The one that is there does not work and the pressure on that line is too high. Ernie explained that a plumber will be needed to run water and drain lines, and an electrician would also be needed. He is going to come back with a full estimate.

Lincoln asked for permission to use the Playground Fund to build a sand box. The sand can come from the town sand pile. The Board approved, provided that the location is approved by VLCT for safety, and by Ernie for access.

Lincoln would like to have teenagers able to use the gym without adult supervision. The policy now requires adult supervision. He thinks this would still be necessary for younger kids.

Jacob Gouge is looking for a solution for the gym lights.

Leibold Cows: Bobbi listed recent complaints about the cows being out. She showed the Board a folder of complaints dating back to 1999. Rich Phillips explained that the Fence Viewers have looked at the fences and they are not adequate. The Fence Viewers and Mr. Leibold witnessed a cow going through the fence during the inspection. Rich stated that there is no grass to eat on the Leibold property. They don't seem to be emaciated because they are feeding on neighbors' land.

Rich explained that the fence between the Leibold and Martin property, and the Leibold and Dix property, are Leibold's responsibility, because the Martins and Norm Dix do not have cows on the land bordering the fence. Norm Dix and Albert St. Cyr voiced their opinions that the animals are hungry and not being cared for, and that is why they are not staying in.

Mia Roethlein submitted a complaint regarding the cows in Route 2 in the middle of the night, and questioning their care.

The Town has little authority over livestock, but the affected landowners can impound the animals. The landowners also have the option to pursue civil action against Mr. Leibold. Chris Martin stated that the cows were out just before the meeting. It would be difficult to corral them because they run when they see people coming.

John Warshow suggested that we would have more success pursuing the Route 2 problem. Bobbi suggested pursuing the question about animal cruelty.

John suggested asking the Town Attorney to pursue some type of injunction because of the threat of injury if the cows cause an accident in Route 2.

The Fence Viewers will issue an order that the fences have to be fixed within 48 hours.

Stranahan Town Forest: The Stranahan Committee met last night but did not make any decisions. Jim and Bobbi Brimblecombe expressed concerns about what would happen if someone gets hurt or causes damage. The bike club has insurance but the Brimblecombes and the Town would want assurance that their insurance would be adequate.

The Board approved of mountain biking in the forest and it will be included in the next management plan. Andy questioned the best way to decide where the trail should be, to be sure it is in the best location. John suggested having a neutral third party come in and help decide where the trail should be.

Andy stated that he thinks shared use of walking trails can work in some situations. He will work with the bike people and the Stranahan Committee and Conservation Commission to come up with a proposal for the next meeting.

Meeting change: The Board will meet on June 30 instead of July 7.

Sand Pit: The Silversteins have signed a landowner agreement with the Cross Vermont Trail organization to help maintain the portion on the railroad bed that is on their property. The trail would be open for public, 4-season use, but not officially designated as part of the Cross Vermont Trail. The property will not be open for motorized use. There will be gates that will allow walkers/bikers but will not allow motor vehicles to pass through. Greg Western is suggesting that similar work could be done at the sand pit since it abuts the Silverstein property. The Town is planning to install a new gate at the sandpit. The Cross Vermont association has funds for signs

and work to make pedestrian bypasses around the gates. Before they can provide the work they need a signed permission form from the Town. Andy asked him to send the form with a sketch and it will be signed at the next meeting.

Greg asked what the process would be to get an easement. The Board told him to get more information before the town could put it on the warning for town meeting.

Wall on Route 2: Road Foreman Dan Tetreault received a quote from Mountain Meadows Landscape to replace the wall in front of the Berry residence with a pressure-treated wall. The quote is \$5,596.80. He received several other quotes, all around \$10,000. The Board accepted the quote.

Bunker Hill Circle: Chris received a complaint from Renee Lawrence about sediment washing onto her lawn. The Board discussed possible solutions. The Board decided to have a surveyor set the pin that is missing so that they will know where the Town's property is.

Highway Equipment: Dan asked the Board for permission to buy a mulcher. He has been borrowing one from Cabot. A new one is about \$5,250. He will check to see if Cabot wants to sell theirs. If not, the Board approved purchasing a new one.

Cemeteries: The Board reviewed the cemetery finances. They defined the operating and perpetual care balances. They decided that in 2015, 100% of lot purchases and 100% of dividends will be allocated to the perpetual care fund. The policy will be reviewed and adjusted annually.

The Board will ask cemetery sexton Joe Mangan to get a quote for repairing the rock wall at the Dwinell Cemetery. They approved having him do the stone straightening and repair, and fill sunken graves.

Dogs: Vivien Davis called to say that her dogs are not ever off of her property because they have underground or wireless fencing.

The Board received a complaint from Marie Houghton regarding dogs belonging to Jessica Comolli. She was sent a letter with a copy of the ordinance.

VT Alert: The Selectboard will ask the Fire Department to set the town up to participate.

Expenses, Permits & Payroll: Selectboard members read and signed reports for General Expenses and Payroll. They approved a liquor license for Marshfield Village Store, and a cemetery deed to Beverly Guillory. They approved the minutes of the May 5 and May 19 meetings.

The meeting adjourned at 10:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Bobbi Brimblecombe, Town Clerk

The foregoing is a true copy of the Minutes of the June 16, 2015 Selectboard Meeting.
A True Record. Attest, _____, Town Clerk
